



July 3, 2017

The Honorable Patricia C. Bates
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4048
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1250 (Jones-Sawyer). Counties: Contracts for personal services.
OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED – As amended June 21, 2017**

Dear Senator Bates,

Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County urges you to oppose AB 1250 unless it is amended to exempt contracts with nonprofits from the proposed rules for county jurisdictions. There is widespread concern that the bill will adversely impact nonprofits and more importantly, reduce services to vulnerable members of the communities they serve through contracts with counties.

At Second Harvest, we provide critical services to Orange County residents that will be significantly impacted if AB 1250 is passed in its current form. Through our CalFresh outreach program we provide direct application assistance at nineteen locations, robust outreach at community partner distributions and events, case management and client advocacy. In FY16 we were able to provide the equivalent of 1,320,109 meals to Orange County families in need (a 31% increase from FY15) through our CalFresh program. Passage of AB 1250 in its current form will negatively impact our strategic plan to close the meal gap in Orange County by creating excessive barriers around, or possibly halting, our authorization to provide CalFresh outreach and Emergency Food services.

There are important reasons that counties turn to nonprofits to partner with them on delivery of critical services such as health and human services, animal welfare, juvenile justice, domestic violence, immigration matters and more. In fact, as noted in CalNonprofits' seminal report, *Causes Count: The Economic Power of California's Nonprofit Sector*, over 80% of Californians have confidence that nonprofits act in the public's interest and deliver quality services, and believe that nonprofits provide quality services, operate efficiently and spend money wisely.

AB 1250's provisions are far too onerous for non-profits, as they will drive up unfunded overhead and compliance costs. And that's the best-case scenario. The worst is that contracts will come to a halt altogether, a prospect the counties are saying unequivocally will occur, or be so delayed that they cause serious adversity to the low-income and marginalized Californians our members serve.

For these reasons and others, Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County opposes AB 1250, unless it is amended to exempt nonprofits and focus solely on the entities that put counties at risk of privatization. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicole Suydam
CEO